MARINE
RECREATIONAL INFORMATION
PROGRAM

FY Project Plan

Discarded Fish Identification in the Private Boat Mode

Created on

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1. Overview

1.1. Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's Groundfish Management Plan has a requirement for including discarded fish with a mortality rate applied with the harvested catch numbers. This total catch which includes discard mortalities is used to monitor the fishery against Harvest Goals and Guidelines set for the various management areas in the management plan. This requirement is a dilemma for the sampling of the private boat fishery, as many anglers do not know the species of fish they may have thrown back. Sampling on PC boats can be done onboard for direct observation of discards as to species and size. However, dockside interviews at launch ramps for private boats (PR) are dependent on angler reported data and species identification skills in order to report accurate data on discards to the sampler

1.2. Project Description

This study proposes to use disposable cameras handed out at the launch ramp to collect data on the actual species discarded in the private boat fishery. This will allow for actual species data for some of the PR boat trips selected at launch ramps during sampling. It will then allow for comparison to discards that are observed and recorded by the samplers in the Party/Charter (PC) mode for the same area. In California and on some Oregon trips samplers ride the PC boats to observe discards or Charter skippers report the species discarded (Washington). This study will provide information by area as to the validity of using the PC discards as to species ratios as a proxy for discards by private boats operating in the same general area. It will also collect for the first time acutal species discarded in the private boat mode.

1.3. Objectives

The objectives of this study are to obtain actual discard species information from the private boat anglers that are interviewed after their trip at the launch ramp or boat hoist. We will also measure their identification skills by use of a log form to record their listings of the species discarded in comparison to the photos taken of that specific discard. Secondary information will collect use of a descending device for each rockfish species discarded as they are subject to barotrauma when released at the surface. The Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering using a reduced mortality for rockfish released using a descending device. These devices send them back down to depth on release to overcome barotrauma effects when they are brought to the surface when caught. Finally we will compare ratios of discarded species with those seen on PC boats operating in the same area to further inform managers of the validity of using the PC species mix proxy for private boats.

1.4. References

2. Methodology

2.1. Methodology

Private boat anglers will be randomly selected in California, Oregon and Washington to be provided disposable cameras to record fish discarded at sea on their trip for the day. Selections will be made to coincide with the random assignments for catch and effort surveys in the three states. Specific discard fisheries technicians will be utilized separate from the catch and effort samplers to contact anglers early in the morning at the launch ramps to recruit them for recording of their discards for that days trip. Cameras and discard logs will be provided to these anglers. The logs and cameras will be collected by the catch and effort samplers at the completion of the trip. They will be returned to PSMFC for data processing and data entry. PSMFC will develop the photos and match them to the discard log for that anglers trip as well as the catch and effort sample forms when a sample occurs. Species discarded will be tallied for the various management areas. These species and their frequency in the catch will be compared to Charter boat discards for the same management area. Charterboat discards are more detailed and specific as most charteboats in California are sampled by placing the sampler on the boat trip to record all retained and discarded fish and the exact area of catch. Discard information when samplers are not aboard charterboats are provided by the skippers. In both these cases the actual species information is much greater and more detailed than the small amount of data collected in private boat interviews at the ramp.

2.2. Regions

2.3. Geographic Coverage

California, Oregona and Washington

2.4. Temporal Coverage

Field data collection during the rockfish fishery - May - October

2.5. Frequency

Random sample of daily catch and effort survey assignments.

2.6. Unit of Analysis

Discards by species per angler trip and area

2.7. Collection Mode

Paper log forms and cameras.

3. Communications Plan

3.1. Internal

Monthly conference calls with OR, WA and CA state fishery agencies to coordiante camera distribution at sites and on days where state intercept surveys occur.

3.2. External

Monthly reports to States and the MRIP program

4. Assumptions and Constraints

4.1. New Data

Yes

4.2. Track Costs

4.3. Funding Vehicle

RecFIN Grant

4.4. Data Resources

Integration with the catch and effort surveys for private boats in the three states.

4.5. Other Resources

Disposable cameras

4.6. Regulations

4.7. Other

5. Risk

5.1. Project Risk

Table 1: Project Risk

Risk Description	Risk Impact	Risk Probability	Risk Mitigation Approach

6. Final Deliverables

6.1. Additional Reports

Comparisons of catch and effort survey dockside sampling for discards with the actual camera photos

6.2. New Data Sets

Actual Privare boat discards for a selected random sample of trips

6.3. New Systems

Additional record files in the RecFIN database.

7. Project Leadership

7.1. Project Leader and Members

Table 2: Project Members

Project Role	Name	Organization	Title

8. Project Estimates

8.1. Project Schedule

Table 3: Project Schedule - Major Tasks and Milestones

#	Schedule Description	Planned Start	Planned Finish	Prerequisites	Milestones

8.2. Cost Estimates

Table 4: Cost Estimates

Project Need	Cost Description	Date Needed	Estimated Cost
TOTAL			$0.00